

MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

93.778 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Medicaid; Title XIX)

Program Description: Provides financial assistance to states for payments of medical assistance on behalf of cash assistance recipients, children, pregnant women, and the aged who meet income and resource requirements, and other categorically eligible groups. In certain states that elect to provide such coverage, medically needy persons, who, except for income and resources, would be eligible for cash assistance, may be eligible for medical assistance payments under this program. Financial assistance is provided to states to pay for Medicare premiums, copayments and deductibles of qualified Medicare beneficiaries meeting certain income requirements. More limited financial assistance is available for certain Medicare beneficiaries with higher incomes.

Formula Description: Statutory formula. Matching requirements: Federal funds are available to match state expenditures for medical care. Under the Act, the federal share of medical services may range from 50 to 83%. The statistical factors used for fund allocation are: (1) medical assistance expenditures by state; and (2) per capita income by state based on a 3-year average (source: "Personal Income," Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis). Statistical factors for eligibility do not apply to this program. This program has maintenance of effort requirements; see funding agency (DHHS, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) for further details.

Program Supported/Population Served: The statewide Maryland Medical Assistance Program provides a broad range of medical services to low-income persons and to those with catastrophic illness who are unable to pay for care. There are two primary classifications of needy persons: (1) the categorically needy; and (2) the medically needy. The categorically needy classification includes persons who receive Temporary Cash Assistance from the Maryland Department of Human Resources as well as those receiving Supplemental Security Income grants from the Social Security Administration. Categorically needy persons are enrolled automatically under the Medical Assistance Program. Several other populations that do not receive public assistance grants are included in the categorically needy classification. These include children, pregnant women, elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries with income above the standard Medicaid limit but below certain percentages of the poverty level. The medically needy are those who cannot meet the cost of needed medical care but who are self-supporting in other respects. Medically needy individuals must apply to the local departments of social services for eligibility determination under established criteria for income and assets in relation to need and size of family.

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